# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

#### **OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS** No. 17-1096V (UNPUBLISHED)

SIMON OLSCHANSKY,

Special Master Katherine E. Oler

Decision on Stipulation; Entitlement;

Damages; HPV; Gardasil; Vitiligo; Lump

Petitioner,

Filed: October 21, 2019

V.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND

HUMAN SERVICES,

Brittany Ditto, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

Respondent.

Andrew Downing, Van Cott & Talamante, PLLC, Phoenix, AZ, for Petitioner.

sum.

## **DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION**<sup>1</sup>

On August 15, 2017, Simon Olschansky ("Petitioner") filed a petition seeking compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program ("the Vaccine Program"). Pet., ECF No. 1. Petitioner alleges that he suffered vitiligo as a result of the HPV (Gardasil) vaccinations he received on June 16, 2014 and January 2, 2015. *Id* at 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012)). This means the ruling will be available to anyone with access to the internet. As provided by 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B), however, the parties may object to the decision's inclusion of certain kinds of confidential information. Specifically, under Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has fourteen days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, the Decision in its present form will be available. *Id.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C.A. '300aa-10-' 300aa-34 (West 1991 & Supp. 2002). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. '300aa.

Respondent denies that the HPV vaccines caused Petitioner's vitiligo or any other injury. Stip. ¶ 6, dated October 18, 2019, ECF No. 37.

Nonetheless both parties, while maintaining their above-stated positions, agreed in a joint stipulation filed October 18, 2019 that the issues before them can be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding Petitioner compensation. Stip. ¶ 7.

I have reviewed the file, and based upon that review, I conclude that the parties' stipulation is reasonable. I therefore adopt it as my decision in awarding damages on the terms set forth therein.

The stipulation awards:

1. A lump sum of \$38,696.72 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.

Stip.  $\P$  8. This award represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C.  $\S$  300aa-15(a).

I approve a Vaccine Program award in the requested amount set forth above. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment herewith.<sup>3</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Katherine E. Oler Katherine E. Oler Special Master

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice of decision not to seek review.

### IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

SIMON OLSCHANSKY,	)	
Petitioner,	)	
§	ý	No. 17-1096V
ν.	)	Special Master Oler
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	Ś	
HUMAN SERVICES,	Ś	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

#### **STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

- 1. Simon Olschansky, petitioner, filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34 (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of two doses of human papillomavirus ("HPV") vaccine, which is a vaccine contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
  - 2. Petitioner received the HPV vaccines on June 16, 2014, and January 2, 2015.
  - 3. The vaccinations were administered within the United States.
- Petitioner alleges that he suffered from vitiligo as a result of receiving the HPV vaccines, and suffered the residual effects of his alleged injury for more than six months.
- 5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition.
- Respondent denies that the HPV vaccines caused petitioner to suffer from vitiligo, or caused any other injury or condition.

- 7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.
- 8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$38,696.72 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

- 9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.
- 10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.
- 11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

- 12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursed expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).
- 13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the HPV vaccinations administered on June 16, 2014 and January 2, 2015, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about August 15, 2017, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 17-1096V.
- 14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.
- 15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

- 16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.
- 17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the HPV vaccines caused petitioner to have vitiligo, or any other injury or his current condition.
- 18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

4

Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:

SIMON OLSCHANSKY

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR PETITIONER:

ANDREW D. DOWNING

Counsel for Petitioner

Van Cott & Talamante, PLLC 3030 N. Third Street, Suite 790

Phoenix, Arizona 85012

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

CATHARINE E. REEVES

Deputy Director

Torts Branch, Civil Division

U.S. Department of Justice

P.O. Box 146

Benjamin Franklin Station Washington, DC 20044-0146

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

Ward Sorensen for

TAMARA OVERBY

Acting Director, Division of Injury

Compensation Programs

Healthcare Systems Bureau

U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services

5600 Fishers Lane

Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 08N146B

Rockville, MD 20857

Dated: 10/18/2019

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR RESPONDENT:

BRITTANY A. DITTO

Trial Attorney

Torts Branch, Civil Division

U.S. Department of Justice

P.O. Box 146

Benjamin Franklin Station

Washington, DC 20044-0146